THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have so far been eight meetings of the Special Representatives of India and China who were appointed in June 2003 to explore the framework for a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. The first five meetings resulted in the signing of the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question on April 11, 2005. During the last three rounds, Special Representatives have continued their discussions on an agreed framework for a boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement signed on April 11, 2005.

(b) and (c) The boundary settlement will involve the two sides making mutually acceptable adjustments to their respective positions on the boundary question, so as to arrive at a package settlement. In the Joint Declaration issued on November 21, 2006 during the visit of the President of China to India, both sides have reiterated that an early settlement of the boundary question will advance the basic interests of the two countries and shall, therefore, be pursued as a strategic objective. The Special Representatives will seek to complete at an early date the task of finalising an appropriate framework for a final package settlement covering all sectors of the boundary.

Inclusion of Hindi language in UNO

†917. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for inclusion of Hindi in the languages being used by the world organization of the stature of the United Nations Organisation (UNO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of UNO in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government has been actively taking necessary measures for introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of the United Nations. A high level Committee under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister was constituted on 26th February, 2003 followed by a sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Minister of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State for External Affairs in August, 2003 and a core-group headed by the Additional Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs in September, 2003 to look into this matter and take necessary measures. As a step in this direction, an Advocacy Paper to present the Indian case with regard to introducing Hindi in the UN has been prepared. However, this has financial, procedural as well as legal implications. The procedure for getting any language recorgnised as one of the Official Languages of the UN involves obtaining approval of the General Assembly to amend Rule-51 of the Rules of Procedure. Such a proposal has to be approved by more than half of the members of the General Assembly where every member-State has a vote. At present the proposal would require approval of 96 member States given the current membership of 192. In addition, recognising any language as the official language of the UN entails a substantial increase in the expenditure of the UN necessitating an enhanced contribution by every member country, which is why most of the members remain reluctant to support such a proposal.

A formal proposal has yet to be made to the United Nations.

However, the Government of India has always attempted to promote the use of Hindi in the UN. On several occasions Indian leaders have delivered statements at the UN in Hindi. Necessary arrangements were made for simultaneous interpretation of these statements in English by the Permanent Mission of India in New York.

Government of India's sustained efforts have also ensured that United Nations offers its programmes on UN Radio Website in Hindi Language too.

Lack of enquiry and response system in Haj Committee

918. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no proper enquiry and response system in the Central Haj Committee and State Haj Committees;

(b) whether most of the selected applicants for Haj 2006-II were not properly intimated in time and their queries on websites and phones were not entertained;